

## News from Darrell & Kim North....

### Missionaries in Peru



**Rimac River overflows in Lima**



**Family in Ancash trying to save their belongings**

### Devastating Flooding in Peru

As we are sure many of you have seen on the news, Peru is experiencing rains the likes of which have not been seen since 1998. The latest figures being reported here are over 95 confirmed deaths with hundreds of people missing. There are 15 districts declared in a state of emergency. Most of the damage has been in areas around Lima and north of Lima along the coast. There are tens of thousands of people that have been displaced, lost everything, and are still without water or electricity. Most of those affected are very poor and have no way of recovering from this disaster.

As you might imagine the government of Peru is struggling to keep up with this ongoing disaster. The rains are expected to keep falling in the north through mid-April. This makes getting relief to the people very difficult. At this point, areas in the north, are being helped almost solely by the military and other government rescue workers. Areas in Lima are a bit easier for churches and NGOs to reach with supplies. There is one major highway in Peru, and there are areas of this highway that have been destroyed- this hinders relief efforts.

In Southern Peru, where we are living, the devastation is not as severe. We had very heavy rains in January, February and part of March that interrupted water service and, for a few days, the city was closed off from entry or exit, as the main roads were ruined from rain and mudslides. However, there are areas in the department of Arequipa that continue to have no services, and people have lost their homes and belongings.

### What to Do?

We have been in contact with missionaries in Lima and in Trujillo (a coastal town north of Lima). Our church here in Arequipa hopes to coordinate with sister churches in Lima in order to send supplies (clothes, food, etc). Our contact in Trujillo tells us that his area will be rebuilding for many months or more. We have offered to go help, but at this time he says the roads are too dangerous if not impassable. He says the need is great, but they have to wait it out right now until the flooding and mudslides stop and the government finds a way to "dig" them out. (To make a donation contact Jan at Englewood United Methodist Church 941-474-5588 ext. 106)

## Ministry:

**Teaching English** - Kim is preparing to start English classes in an area outside the city proper called El Mirador. This is in the early stages, we are gauging the level of interest, looking for locations, and overall beginning to explore what this may look like.

**Teaching Lay Leaders** - The rains, mudslides and road closures have prevented Darrell from going to the specific areas of interest to begin a leadership training program. We hope that in April the roads will be open to these areas.

**Huanuco Leadership Training Groups** - Darrell is tentatively scheduled to travel to Huanuco to visit various groups that are continuing to teach discipleship classes for leader training. At last count there are 16 groups, and 11 more new groups forming since we moved. Darrell had hoped to visit in March, then April, but our national partner in Huanuco let him know that the roads are destroyed because of the rains. The trip was all planned for May, but yesterday we received news that the dirt roads are all mud and impassable, so the trip is now in July allowing time for the mud to dry up and roads to open. We are hopeful that by July Darrell will be able to get through the roads.

**Arequipa Church** - Darrell has accepted a position on the men's leadership team in our local church here. Also, he has been asked to oversee a small construction project at the church. This is a great way for him to use his background in construction to help the church and continue to strengthen relationships with local believers.

Many have lost everything. The government has provided tents in some areas of devastation.

### Prayer Requests:

- For those devastated by loss of life, home, and belongings.
- Relief from the rains, most of the hard work can't start until the rains subside.
- That the churches would come together to be the hands and feet of Jesus during this terrible time in Peru. That God would be glorified in all things.
- Guidance in setting up English classes. That God would guide our way in everything we set out to do.
- Continue to pray for the leaders of the discipleship groups in Huanuco; to be faithful, led by the Holy Spirit and continue to lead groups on their own. (That Darrell will be able to visit in July.)
- Health, for our team and family: The water is in a constant state of contamination right now and many are experiencing water-born illnesses.
- For a break through in the "shanty town" of El Mirador. Our team mates have been there for many years; they started an after-school program. They have yet to see any real impact on the families of these kids.
- Unity of vision for our team.
- Continued cultural and language learning.



## **Thank You**

Thank you for your partnership and prayers. We are grateful that God has allowed us to serve Him in this way and in this place. We are dependent not just on financial support but more so on the prayers of God's people. As we face various obstacles here we know that God can overcome them all through continuous prayer.

We are happy to give praise that the kids have settled in nicely here. They have reconnected with old friends (from our time here in language school) and are meeting new ones. They are getting involved in the youth group at our church. Megan is taking art classes, mostly for a chance to socialize. As many of you know this has been a great need, and we are giving all the praise to God for this answered prayer.

### **Our new Peru address is:**

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Arequipa, Peru